



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Press Service



Release - Immediate.

April 27, 1923.

GOOD RESULTS IN ARIZONA IN PREDATORY ANIMAL WORK

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When predatory animal control work was started in Arizona at least 10 per cent of the lamb crop was killed by animal marauders each year and fully 5 per cent of the calf crop. At present a conservative estimate would place the loss among lambs at 3 or 4 per cent, and not more than 1 per cent of the calves. Coyotes and foxes are responsible for most of the loss to sheepmen. A fox will come into a herd of young lambs, kill four or five, eat the heart and liver of one and go away, returning the next night to repeat the killing.

The coyote problem in Arizona is still a big one, but much progress has been made in teaching stockmen to help themselves in cases where the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture is unable to send a man to a particular range. When stockmen are furnished poison and instructed in its use, they protect their own flocks effectively. They are enthusiastic supporters of the control work of the bureau. During 1922, 342,650 poisoned baits were distributed by employed poisoners and cooperators. Stockmen report excellent success in killing no less than 6,000 coyotes with the poison they put out. Few lambs were lost where this work has been conducted. Poultry men also look to the Biological Survey for relief from coyotes, which frequently kill chickens.

In comparing results obtained by poisoning and by trapping, it was found that a good trapper working for two months in one locality succeeded in getting only an average of 8 coyotes a month, whereas a poisoner detailed to the same district found 25 dead coyotes in less than a month and knew that, as usual, there must have been many others killed but not found.

Excellent headway has been made in killing wolves and mountain lions in this district. The patrol maintained along the Mexican border has been markedly successful in preventing wolves from entering Arizona from Mexico and establishing themselves there.

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